

Since no claims are amended, added or canceled by this Response, the claims of this application as they presently stand are not reproduced herein. Claims 6, 7, 10-19, 22-36 and 38-40 are currently present in this application as a result of the previous cancellation of Claims 1-5, 9, 20-21 and 37, without prejudice.

In the currently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 USC 119 (a) – (d) or (f), and confirmed the receipt by the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the required certified copies of the priority document therefor;
2. Indicated that the drawings as filed on 26 February 2004 have been accepted;
3. Provided Applicant with a copy of a Form PTO-892 listing an additional reference apparently cited by him as being pertinent to Applicant's disclosure;
4. Accepted Applicant's Request for Continued Examination as filed on 3 September 2004;
5. Indicated that Claims 10-19, 22-36 and 38-40 are allowed;
6. Rejected Claims 6 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Katayama reference (US Patent 5,875,167); and